

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12078 031106Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /015 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2805
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12078

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, TH
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH: PHAEN WANNAMETHI

REF: BANGKOK 12000

SUMMARY - BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF PHAEN WANNAMETHI FOLLOWS:

1. PHAEN WANNAMETHI, AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SINCE 1975, IS AN EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE IS A MEMBER OF A SMALL ELITE GROUP IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) THAT HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN FORMULATING AND CARRYING OUT FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY DURING HIS TERM AS UNDER SECRETARY (NOVEMBER, 1973 TO OCTOBER, 1975). U.S. OFFICIALS REGARD PHAEN HIGHLY.

2. PHAEN IS POLITE AND A VERY POISED DIPLOMAT. IN NEW SOCIAL SITUATIONS HIS RELATIVELY RESERVED, QUIET NATURE OCCASIONALLY MAKES HIM SEEM ABRUPT, BUT HE RELAXES ONCE RAPPORT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. AN INTELLECTUAL, HE IS WELL READ AND LIKES CLASSICAL AND SEMICLASSICAL MUSIC, ESPECIALLY CHORALE WORKS. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS
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ENGLISH WELL AND KNOWS FRENCH.

3. PHAEN WAS BORN IN BANGKOK ON JANUARY 30, 1924. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK; BA IN HISTORY FROM OBERLIN COLLEGE IN OHIO; AND AN MA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY (1953). HE HAS

ALSO TAKEN COURSES AT NEW YORK, COLUMBIA AND
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITIES. DURING HIS 30 PLUS YEARS IN
THE MFA, WHICH HE BEGAN IN 1942, PHAEN HAS SERVED
IN WASHINGTON (1945-47), CAIRO (1956-57), KARACHI
(1959), SAIGON (1959-61) AND LONDON (1965-71).
HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS
OF DIFFERENT TIMES AND AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINR, TH, (PHAEN WANNAMETHI)
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